



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jacob Coin
Office of Public Affairs
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
Ph: 909.864.8933
jcoin@sanmanuel-nsn.gov

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TRIBE DONATES \$250,000 TO MEMORIALIZE NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS

***San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Partners with the Riverside
National Cemetery Memorial & Monuments Committee to Create and
Erect Monument***

San Manuel Indian Reservation (Highland, Calif.) – March 10, 2010 – The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians announced today that it is donating \$250,000 to the Riverside National Cemetery Memorial & Monuments Committee for the design and construction of a monument honoring the contributions of Native American Veterans and Servicemen & Women in the Armed Forces. The monument will be housed at the Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside, CA.

“San Manuel has made this contribution in gratitude of the sacrifice of Native American veterans to defend their country and native homelands,” said San Manuel Chairman James Ramos. “This monument honors a tradition of service among Indian people that began before the founding of this country and will continue into its future.”

In a 2006 message to American Indian tribal leaders in Washington, DC, Jim Nicholson, then-Secretary of the Office of Veterans Affairs, acknowledged the service of Native Americans in defense of the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans. According to Nicholson, Native Americans serve in the military in higher numbers per capita than any other group in the country. Native American Codetalkers from several Indian tribes are widely acknowledged for using their tribal languages to transmit messages during World War II. The code was never broken by the enemy.

The American Indian Veterans memorial will be the first of its kind in a national cemetery. Aside from honoring Native American veterans and their families, the monument will also educate and inform guests about important contributions that American Indian Veterans have made in service to our Country. San Manuel will be joining Morongo Band of Mission Indians in partnership to make this monument a reality.

About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized American Indian tribe located near the city of Highland, California. The Serrano Indians are the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys, and mountains who share a common language and culture. The San Manuel reservation was established in 1891 and recognized as a sovereign nation with the right of self-government. Despite challenges and hardships, the San Manuel Tribal community has continued to progressively maintain and enhance its unique form of government – focusing all efforts on providing a better quality of life for its citizens. Through economic diversification, both on and off the reservation, the tribe has been forward thinking in its efforts to build infrastructure, maintain civil services and promote social, economic, educational, and governmental units including the departments of fire, public safety, education and environment and continues to pursue opportunities for future generations.

###